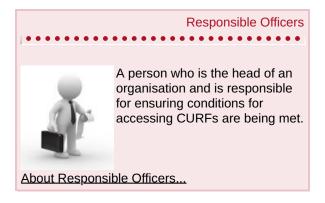
CURF Microdata Entry Page



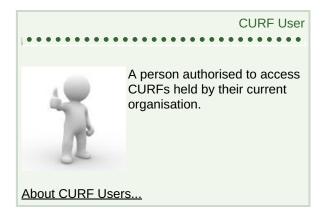
What is CURF Microdata?

A Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is a file of responses to an ABS survey that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation confidentialised. Each person's or organisation's response is called a 'unit record' or 'microdata'. CURFs are useful for researchers and statisticians as they allow them to discover specific information and trends. For detailed information see <u>'What is CURF Microdata?'</u>

CURF Tool Kits







This page last updated 4 March 2009

CURF Microdata Entry Page

These pages are the one-stop shop for information about ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files, or CURFs. A CURF is a file of responses to an ABS statistical collection that has had specific identifying information about a person or organisation confidentialised. Each person's or organisation's response is called a 'unit record' or 'microdata'.

Use the links on the navigator at the left to find out more about CURFs, what files are available, what is being released soon, how to apply for access and more. Read the latest news about CURFs and CURF access in the CURF Microdata Newsletter.







Responsible Officer Tool Kit

This page last updated 7 October 2009

What is CURF Microdata?

Microdata are the answers to individual questions on survey questionnaires.

Microdata are disclosed in the form of Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), which are files of responses to ABS surveys that have had specific identifying information about persons and organisations confidentialised.

Have you ever completed an ABS survey questionnaire? If so, your completed questionnaire is a 'unit record'. Your unit record and those of all respondents are then combined *and confidentialised* to form a CURF.

CURFs include the most detailed information available from the ABS.

Why is Microdata confidentialised?

The ABS takes its responsibilities to protect the confidentiality of individuals' and organisations' data very seriously. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is, in turn, fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires.

How are Microdata confidentialised?

The most basic of the techniques employed by the ABS involves removing all identifying information, such as names and addresses.

Additionally, the data items that are most likely to enable identification of unit records are only released in broad categories. For example, while survey questionnaires may capture your home or business address, microdata may only be released at the State or Territory level.

More advanced confidentialisation occurs through checking the CURFs for records with uncommon combinations of responses. These records may be altered slightly to ensure individual respondents cannot be identified.

This page first published 4 December 2007, last updated 13 August 2009

List of Available CURFs

Browse by title below or view CURFs by topic, release date or catalogue number on the Statistics / by CURF web page.

Only the most recent issue is shown below. For earlier releases of these CURFs click on the title and then on the Past and Future issues tab.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Α

Microdata: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.30.001) Microdata: Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4228.0.30.002)

Microdata: Australian Housing Survey, Basic CURF, 1999 (cat. no. 4186.0.30.001)

Microdata: Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, Basic CURF, 1994-1997 (cat. no. 6286.0.30.001) Microdata: Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, Expanded CURF 1994 - 1997 (cat. no. 6286.0.55.001)

В

Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (cat. no.

8168.0.55.001)

Microdata: Business Longitudinal Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1994-95-1997-98 (cat. no. 8141.0.30.001)

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C

Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, Census Sample File, Basic CURF, 2006 (cat. no. 2037.0.30.001)

Microdata: Census of Population and Housing, Census Sample File, Expanded CURF, 2006 (cat. no. 2037.0.55.001)

Microdata: Child Care Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1999 (cat. no. 4444.0.30.001)

Microdata: Child Care Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, Jun 2002 (cat. no. 4444.0.55.001)

Microdata: Childhood Education and Care, Expanded CURF, Australia ,June 2008 (cat. no. 4402.0.55.001)

Microdata: Crime and Safety Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2002 (cat. no. 4509.0.55.002)

Microdata: Crime and Safety, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4524.0.55.003)

Microdata: Crime Victimisation, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat.no. 4530.0.55.002)

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D

Microdata: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Basic CURF, Australia, 1998 (cat. no. 4430.0.30.002)

Microdata: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Basic CURF, Australia (Reissue), 2003 (cat. no. 4430.0.30.002)

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Ε

Microdata: Education and Training, Basic CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.002)

Microdata: Education and Training, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 6278.0.55.004)

Microdata: Education, Training and Information Technology, Basic CURF, Australia, 2001 (cat. no. 6278.0.30.001)

Microdata: Education and Work, Basic CURF, Australia, May 2009 (cat. no. 6227.0.30.001)

Microdata: Employee Earnings and Hours, Expanded CURF, Australia, May 2006 (cat. no. 6306.0.55.001)

Microdata: Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation, Expanded CURF, Australia, Apr to Jul 2007 (cat.

no. 6361.0.55.001)

F

Microdata: Family Characteristics and Transitions, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006-07 (cat. no. 4442.0.55.001)

Microdata: Forms of Employment, Basic CURF, Australia Aug 1998 (cat. no. 6359.0.30.001)

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G

Microdata: General Social Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.0.30.001) Microdata: General Social Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4159.0.30.002)

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Н

Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2003- 04 (Third Edition) (cat. no. 6540.0)

Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1998-99(Third edition - incl .FIS) (cat. no. 6544.0.30.001)

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I

Microdata: Income and Housing Costs and Amenities Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1989-90 (cat. no. 6541.0.30.001)

Microdata: Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007 - 2008 (cat. no. 6541.0.30.001)

Microdata: Income Distribution Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1986 (cat. no. 6541.0.30.001) Microdata: Innovation in Australian Business, Expanded CURF, 2003 (cat. no. 8158.0.55.001)

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L

Microdata: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2007 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002)

Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Aug 2008 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.001)

Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Forms of Employment Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, November 2008 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.007)

Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, Feb 2008 (cat. no.

6202.0.30.004)

Microdata: Labour Mobility, Basic CURF, Australia, Feb 2006 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.004)

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M

Microdata: Mental Health and Wellbeing of Adults, Basic CURF, Western Australia, 19987 (cat. no. 4326.5.30.001) Microdata: Multipurpose Household Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2008 - 09 (cat. no. 4100.0.55.001)

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Ν

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, Expanded CURF, 2004-05 (cat. no. 4715.0.55.001)

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, Expanded CURF, 2008 (cat. no. 4720.0.55.001)

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, Basic CURF, 1994 (cat. no. 4188.0.15.001)

Microdata: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey, Expanded CURF, 1994 (cat. no. 4188.0.55.002)

Microdata: National Health Survey, Basic and Expanded CURF, 2007-08 (cat. no. 4324.0.55.001)

Microdata: National Nutrition Survey Basic CURF,1995 (cat. no. 4807.0.30.001)

Microdata: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Basic and Expanded CURF, 2007 (cat. no. 4326.0.30.001)

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P

Microdata: Participation in Sport and Physical Recreation, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4177.0.55.002)

Microdata: Personal Fraud, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 4528.0.55.001)

Microdata: Personal Safety Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2005 (cat. no. 4906.0.55.001)

Microdata: Pregnancy and Employment Transitions, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2005 (cat. no. 4913.0.55.001)

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R

Microdata: Rental Investors' Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, Jun1997 (cat. no. 8711.0.30.001)

Microdata: Rental Tenants, Basic CURF, Australia, Apr 1994 (cat. no. 4138.0.15.001)

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Т

Microdata: Time Use Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4152.0.55.001) Microdata: Time Use Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2006 (cat. no. 4152.0.55.002)

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Microdata: Voluntary Work, Basic CURF, Australia, 2000 (cat. no. 4441.0.30.001)

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W

Microdata: Women's Safety Survey, Basic CURF, Australia, 1996 (cat. no. 4128.0.15.001) Microdata: Work Related Injuries, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6324.0.55.002)

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List of Expected CURFs

The list below shows CURFs intended for release. The release dates shown are indicative only. This page is updated at the beginning of each month and as required.

To assist early processing of your CURF application, ABS is happy to receive CURF applications prior to the CURF release date. See the Applying for CURF Microdata web page.

CURF Title and Reference Period	Indicative Release date*
Microdata: Patient Experiences in Australia, Expanded CURF, 2009 (cat. no. 4840.0)	early 2011
Microdata: Personal Safety Survey, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2005, Reissue (cat. no. 4906.0.55.001)	April 2011
Microdata: Disability, Ageing and Carers, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009 (cat. no. 4430.0.30.002)	early to mid 2011
Microdata: Family Characteristic and Transitions, Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 4442.0.55.001)	early to mid 2011
Microdata: Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Expanded CURF, Australia, Nov 2010 (cat. no. 6250.0.25.002)	late 2011
Microdata: Household Expenditure Survey and Survey of Income and Housing, Basic and Expanded CURF, Australia, 2009-10 (cat. no. 6540.0)	late 2011
Microdata: Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, 2010 (cat. no. 6202.0.30.001)	late 2011

*Note: Release dates indicative as at **21 March 2011**

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Published Research Using CURF Microdata

ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are used by researchers for a broad range of statistical analysis. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations to their research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

The links below list published research for each CURF title. To submit a citation please email the details to microdata.access@abs.gov.au

CURF Title	Publications
Adult Literacy and Life Skills	Published Research
Australian Housing	Published Research
Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns	Published Research
Business Longitudinal Database	Published Research
Census of Population and Housing, Census Sample File	Published Research
Childhood Education and Care	Published Research
Crime and Safety	No publications available
Disability, Ageing and Carers	Published Research
Education, Training and Information Technology	Published Research
Education and Work	Published Research
Employee Earnings and Hours	Published Research
Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation	Published Research
Family Characteristics and Transitions	No publications available
Forms of Employment	Published Research
General Social	Published Research
Household Expenditure	Published Research
Household Expenditure and Income and Housing	Published Research
Income and Housing	Published Research
Income Distribution	Published Research
Innovation in Australian Business	No publications available
Labour Force and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership	Published Research
Labour Force and Forms of Employment	No publications available
Labour Force and Labour Mobility	No publications available
Labour Mobility	No publications available
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants	No publications available
Mental Health and Wellbeing	Published Research
Multi Purpose Household	Published Research
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Health, Social)	Published Research
National Health	Published Research
National Nutrition	Published Research
Personal Fraud	Published Research
Personal Safety	No publications available
Pregnancy and Employment Transitions	No publications available
Rental Investors	Published Research
Rental Tenants	No publications available
Time Use	Published Research
Voluntary Work	Published Research
Women's' Safety	No publications available

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 10 March 2011

Published Research - Aspects of Literacy, 1996 CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Aspects of Literacy CURF. The information was provided by the CURFs' users. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

2003

Miller, P.W., Chiswick, B.R. and Lee Y.L. (2003) Schooling, literacy, numeracy and labour market success. Economic Record, vol. 79, iss. 245, pp.165-181.

2002

Ong, K. (2002) The effect of literacy on earnings in Australia. University of New South Wales School of Economics Honours Thesis.

Published Research - Australian Housing Survey, 1994, 1999 CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Australian Housing Survey CURFs. The information was provided by the CURFs' users. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

2004

Orzechowska, E. (2004) PhD thesis examining Australia's labour force ageing, with particular reference to impact of the age structural changes on employment, and length of worklife. Australian National University, Canberra.

Wulff, M. (2004) Shrinking households, smaller dwellings? Housing and the single-person households, 1981-2001 in International Sociological Association, Adequate and Affordable Housing for All: Research, Policy, Practice Metro Hall, Toronto, June 24-27, 2004.

Wulff, M. (2004) The rise in one person households: the housing solution for the Australian compact city? Paper presented to the Housing Studies Association Conference, Planning and Housing: Policy and Practice, Belfast, Northern Ireland, 9th-10th September 2004.

Wulff, M., Healy, E. and Reynolds, M. (2004) Why don't small households live in small dwellings? Disentangling a planning dilemma. People and Place, volume 12, no 1, pp 58-71.

2003

Yates, J. (2003) A distributional analysis of the impact of direct and indirect housing assistance. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Final Report.

2002

Flatau, Wood, and Watson (2002) A microsimulation model of the Australian housing market. Housing and Labour Markets.

Yates, J. (2002) A distributional analysis of the impact of direct and indirect housing assistance. Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Positioning Paper.

Published Research - Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns, 1994-97

CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Australians' Employment and Unemployment Patterns CURFs. The information was provided by the CURFs' users. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

2005

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. (2005) The effectiveness of Indigenous job search strategies. Economic Record.

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Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. (2005) Indigenous job search success. CAEPR Discussion Paper no 274, CAEPR, ANU, Canberra.

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2004

Cuthbert, D. (2004) Labour market outcomes of Australians. PhD thesis, Monash University, Victoria.

Gray, M.C. and Hunter, B.H. (2004) Patterns of Indigenous job search activity: CAEPR Discussion Paper no 263, CAEPR, ANU, Canberra.

Hunter, B, Gray, M.C. and Heath, A. (2004) An exploration of marginal attachment to the Australian labour market. Research Discussion Paper no 2002/7, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney.

2002

Dockery, A.M. and Webster E.M. (2002) Long-term unemployment and work deprived individuals: issues and policies. CEPR Discussion Paper, 445, ANU.

Gray, M.C., Heath, A. and Hunter, B.H. (2002) An exploration of marginal attachment to the Australian labour market. Reserve Bank Research Discussion Paper no 2002/7, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney.

2001

Chalmers, J. and Kalb, G. (2001) Moving unemployment to permanent employment: could a casual job accelerate the transition? Australian Economic Review, 34(4), pp 415-436.

2000

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1998

Webster, E.M. (1998) Unemployment. Ecodate, 12.

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Published Research - Business Longitudinal Survey, 1994-1998 CURF MICRODATA RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHY

This page lists publications that have used the Business Longitudinal Survey CURF. The information was provided by the CURFs' users. ABS encourages researchers to provide citations for their published research using CURFs so that others can share the benefits of that research. This information also helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs.

To submit information about your research that has used CURFs please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au

2009 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 | Other Material

2009

Dharmadasa, P. (2009) <u>Organisational learning, innovation and performance in family-controlled manufacturing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Australia</u>. A dissertation submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Faculty of Business, Technology and Sustainable Development, Bond University, Queensland.

Huang, F., Rice, J. (2009) The role of absorptive capacity in facilitating "open innovation" outcomes: A study of Australian smes in the manufacturing sector. International Journal of Innovation Management, 13 (2), pp. 201-220.

Juniper, J. Mitchell, W.and Myers, J. (2004) Small business employment dynamics in Australia. Centre of Full Employment and Equity, University of Newcastle. Working Paper no. 04-10.

2006

Fitzsimmons, J.R. and Douglas, E.J. (2006) Entrepreneurs and funding decisions: evidence from Australian SMEs. Journal of Entrepreneurship and Small Business.

Steffens, P.R., Fitzsimmons, J.R. and Douglas E.J. (2006) Small firm performance: patterns of evolution. In Growth: profitability space, AGSE Entrepreneurship Exchange, Auckland, New Zealand.

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Responsible Officer - Tool Kit



Responsible Officer

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Learn what it means to be a CURF Responsible Officer

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MiCRO (CURF applications & management)



W CURF MICRODATA AND MICRO ONLINE

Are you a first time CURF user?

Please see: 1406.0.5.004 - Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs): a step-by-step Guide.

click here to log into MiCRO

What is MiCRO?

MiCRO is an online system that allows you to:

- apply for CURF access online
- view which CURFs are available in your organisation
- view the CURFs to which you have access
- update your contact information.

CURF Contact Officers can also:

- manage CURFs in their organisation
- keep track of all users currently approved for access to CURFs in their organisation
- deactivate CURF users when they leave the organisation.





More about using MiCRO: MiCRO User guide.rtf MiCRO Contact Officer guide.rtf

This page last updated 29 November 2010

Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)

Log in to the RADL (for approved RADL users only)

Please click here to log into the RADL

What is the RADL?

The ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is a secure online data query service that approved clients access via the ABS website. Within the RADL users submit queries in the SAS, Stata or SPSS analytical languages against Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) that are kept within the ABS environment. The results of the queries are automatically checked then made available to the users via their desktops. Because the CURFs are kept within the ABS environment, the ABS is able to release more detailed Expanded CURFs in the RADL than are available on CD-ROM.

Requirements of RADL access and assumed knowledge

RADL users must:

- have been approved by ABS to use the CURF they wish to access in the RADL.
- have familiarised themselves with the Technical Paper and any Information Papers relating to their CURF
- have read the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL): User Guide.
- know how to use an Internet browser
- be able to write programs in one of the analytical languages in RADL (SAS9.1, Stata10 or SPSS11.5), as ABS does not provide a code advisory service, and
- understand how to use a zip program (WinZip or equivalent programs).

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What CURFs are in the RADL?

All Expanded CURFs are available in the RADL. The <u>List of available CURFs</u> shows which CURFs are available in Basic and Expanded formats and also links to the Technical and Information Papers for each CURF.

How to apply for access to CURFs

Please apply for access to CURFs using MiCRO, the ABS online CURF application system.

Getting started with the RADL

When you first log in to the RADL:

- Read the RADL home page information, including any RADL Alerts
- Click on the RADL Help link on the navigator on the left of the page
 - The 'Information for all RADL Users' link provides general information for the statistical language you will use
 - The 'CURF Documentation' links provides the CURF's Technical and Information Papers

Help using RADL

While ABS does not provide a code advisory service, we do provide assistance with other aspects of RADL access and use. Please email the RADL Administrator at radl@abs.gov.au.

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This page last updated 21 December 2010

About the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL)

The ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is the data analysis solution for high-end data users who want to extract full value from ABS microdata. ABSDL provides an interactive environment, enabling the analysis of Basic, Expanded or Specialist (customised) Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs). ABSDL provides a more responsive and interactive environment in which to analyse CURFs than that offered by the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Comparison of ABSDL and the RADL

	ABSDL	RADL
Access	On-site in all ABS Offices	Remote access via the ABS website
	Any Basic or Expanded CURF, or a Specialist CURF customised to client's analysis requirements.	Basic and Expanded CURFs
	SAS, SPSS and Stata. Other analytical packages may be able to be provided if requested.	SAS, SPSS and Stata
	Interactive. No automated protections of data within the ABSDL. This means that, using the ABSDL, you are able to undertake cross tabulations and other forms of analysis beyond what is possible in RADL. However, all outputs are vetted by ABS staff before release to clients to ensure confidentiality of respondents is protected.	Batch mode system. A range of automated protections of the data ensure confidentiality of respondents. Some commands restricted or forbidden.
	Sessions must be booked several weeks ahead if using Basic or Expanded CURFs. Several months may be required to produce Specialist CURFs required by clients.	Generally available 24 hours per day, seven days per week.
Cost	Fully cost recovered. See below	No charge beyond CURF price

Pricing

The ABSDL service is provided on a fully cost-recovered basis, with a base price of \$2,590 (including GST). Of this, \$2,030 covers the one-off set up cost, and \$560 provides one standard ABSDL session of 3.5 hours. The base price includes preparation of the desktop PC, maintenance of the client's access to a CURF, as well as vetting of all output produced during the ABSDL session. Additional sessions are priced at \$560 per 3.5 hours or part thereof. Loading of different analytical packages incurs additional costs.

Development of a Specialist CURF for use in the ABSDL is also cost recovered. As these are developed on a case-by-case basis the cost for Specialist CURFs may be considerable, depending on the client's data requirement. Clients in universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement are entitled to a specified ABSDL service for which there is no charge to the individual user. Information about this is provided on the <u>ABS/Universities Australia</u> Agreement web page.

More information

For further information please contact ABS Microdata Access Strategies at 02 6252 7714 or email microdata.access@abs.gov.au

This page last updated 13 May 2010

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

About the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement provides a range of products and services to universities. Thirty five Australian universities will participate in the Agreement for 2009-2011. These are listed on the <u>ABS/Universities Australia Agreement</u> participating universities web page.

Under the Agreement, staff and students are not individually invoiced for their use of the priced ABS products and services in the Agreement. This is because Universities Australia has paid for access on behalf of universities.

Staff and students of these universities may use the products and services for the purposes of research, teaching and permitted commercial uses.

More information about the products and services provided by the Agreement and how to apply for access is provided below.

Products and services provided by the Agreement

ABS CURFs

Extensive information about Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs), including a list of available CURFs is linked from the <u>CURF Microdata Entry Page</u>.

CURFs are released to authorised clients for approved purposes of statistical analysis and research. All access to ABS CURFs requires prior approval by the ABS. Application forms for this approval are available on the <u>Applying for CURF Microdata</u> web page. The application includes an undertaking legally binding users to responsible use of CURF Microdata.

Access to ABS Data Laboratory

Information about ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) is provided on the About the ABS Data Laboratory web page.

Under the 2009-11 Agreement, each authorised user in a participating university may access the ABSDL for:

- three 3.5 hour user sessions
- using a standard statistical analysis package (SAS, SPSS or Stata)
- with one Basic or Expanded ABS CURF.

Loading of other statistical packages or software, additional user sessions beyond the initial three, additional concurrent users, or creation of Specialist CURFs will incur additional charges outside the Agreement.

Census Table Builder

Census TableBuilder is an online tool which allows users to create their own tables of Census data by accessing all variables contained in the Census Output Record File including age, education, housing, income, transport, religion, ethnicity, occupation, family composition and more for all ABS geographic areas.

To learn about and register to use Census Table Builder, please see the Product Brief web page.

Statistics New Zealand Basic CURFs

Like the ABS, Statistics New Zealand releases CURFs to approved researchers. Under the Agreement, New Zealand Basic CURFs will be available to Australian university researchers via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Statistics New Zealand Basic CURFs are only available in Australia within the 2009-11 ABS/Universities Australia Agreement.

Access to Statistics New Zealand Basic CURFs is subject to approval by Statistics New Zealand. Please see <u>ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements</u> for information on how to apply for access to SNZ CURF Microdata.

Luxembourg Income Study

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) is a cross national data archive located in Luxembourg. The Agreement provides access to LIS data for Australian researchers.

Access is subject to users registering to use LIS through signing an annual pledge and submitting this to LIS. For information about LIS, please refer to the <u>Luxembourg Income Study</u> website.

Permitted commercial use under the Agreement

New to the 2009-11 Agreement, Permitted Commercial Use includes:

- consultancy services for a third party, based on CURFs
- statistical and other reports and publications produced from CURFs, and
- teaching materials developed from CURFs

Note that staff and students of participating universities when acting in a private capacity are not included in the Agreement.

Secondary distribution of ABS CURFs or microdata is not a Permitted Commercial Use and is explicitly forbidden.

Please contact <u>microdata.access@abs.gov.au</u> if you are unsure if your proposed use of the products and services falls into the above categories.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 16 October 2009

ABS/Universities Australia Agreement participating universities

The following universities participate in the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement:

Australian Catholic University

Australian National University

Bond University

Central Queensland University

Charles Darwin University

Charles Sturt University

Curtin University of Technology

Deakin University

Edith Cowan University

Flinders University

Griffith University

La Trobe University

Macquarie University

Monash University

Murdoch University

Queensland University of Technology

RMIT University

Southern Cross University

Swinburne University of Technology

University of Adelaide

University of Ballarat

University of Canberra

University of Melbourne

University of New England University of New South Wales (includes Australian Defence Force Academy)

University of Newcastle

University of Queensland

University of South Australia

University of Sydney

University of Tasmania

University of Technology, Sydney

University of Western Australia

University of Western Sydney

University of Wollongong

Victoria University

Related links:

Frequently Asked Questions. What if my university is not part of the Agreement? Services for universities **CURF Contact Officers**

This page last updated 3 February 2011

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This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 18 April 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How is CURF data 'confidentialised'?

CURFs are unit record files from which all identifiers have been removed. Identifiers may include details such as names and addresses. In addition, it is generally necessary for the ABS to alter the records to prevent the identification of survey participants who have a rare mix of responses. All CURFs are thoroughly checked to ensure all data has been confidentialised prior to their release.

For more information, see 'Avoiding Inadvertent Disclosure' and 'Microdata' on the ABS web page <u>How the ABS keeps</u> <u>your information confidential</u>.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 July 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page Published Research Using CURF Microdata provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual for clear instruction on these restrictions.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 4 April 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - Does the ABS guarantee that CURF data and systems are free from errors?

The ABS does not warrant that the CD-ROM or RADL Service or the information sourced from the Service is free from errors. The ABS will not be in any way liable for any loss, damage or injury suffered by You, or any other person consequent upon the use of the Service or the information sourced from the Service.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 19 August 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - How long will I have access to a CURF?

ABS requires that both an individual and their organisation be approved to access each CURF.

Individuals are approved to use CURFs until completion of the Statistical Purpose for which access was granted. Expanded CURFs are subject to an annual renewal process, for further information on this process please see 'Annual Renewal of CURF Access'. After twelve months, ABS will ask if the Expanded CURF is still required for the original statistical purpose. If the CURF is still required, but the purpose of the research changes, a new Statistical Purpose will need to be submitted to the ABS.

Please email microdata.access@abs.gov.au with your new Statistical Purpose if it has changed.

Organisations have access to CURFs in perpetuity - unless that approval is explicitly withdrawn by the ABS (for example, as the result of a breach of ABS terms and conditions of CURF access). This means that access to each CURF is purchased only once by each organisation, regardless of the number of individual users within the organisation approved to use it.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 24 March 2011

Annual Renewal of CURF Access

Each year ABS requires organisations to renew their access to Expanded CURFs. ABS also requires annual renewal of the Responsible Officer Undertaking from each organisation. Basic CURFs do not need annual renewal.

Both the renewal of CURFs and the renewal of the Responsible Officer Undertaking is a condition of CURF use that has been agreed by each organisation's Responsible Officer. These and the other conditions of use of CURFs are shown in the Undertaking itself.

Failure to complete annual renewal may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs for individuals users and/or the organisation.

The annual renewal process is coordinated by each organisation's CURF Contact Officer. Individual users will be asked by the Contact Officer to confirm that they still require use of CURFs and if so, whether the statistical purpose for use of the CURF has changed.

Annual renewal time is a good opportunity for CURF users to provide ABS with citations for their published research that has included use of CURFs. This helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs. ABS publishes these citations on its Published Research Using CURF Microdata web pages so that others can share the benefits of the research.

Related information

Responsible Officer Undertaking Guide to citing ABS sources CURF Contacts

This page last updated 28 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - What skills are required to use CURFs?

CURF data on CD-ROM and in Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is available in SAS, Stata and SPSS formats and can be loaded to various spreadsheets. If clients do not have knowledge of these applications, they are advised to seek guidance and expertise within their organisation prior to using the CURF data. Other software packages will be evaluated by the ABS for inclusion if there is sufficient user demand.

The individual data items have fixed positions within each record of the file. If there is more than one unit type on the file, the file will be organised hierarchically.

An extensive documentation file is provided for each CURF and includes a list of data items with their start positions and lengths, code values and category labels. The documentation also provides weighted and unweighted frequencies of each code value.

Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How should I use survey weights in my model?

This note on using survey weights in modelling has been provided as a response to questions that have been asked by ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) clients regarding the use of weights in their models. It should be useful for those contemplating the use of survey weights in their models, and who would like to know how this might be accomplished.

Survey weights are most commonly used to produce estimates of aggregates, means, and quantiles for a population. The use of weights for more complex survey analysis is less clearcut. There is currently no one unified view by statisticians on if, and how, weights should be used when undertaking a modelling exercise.

The decision whether to use weights or not could have an effect on point estimates produced from the model, not only in terms of magnitude but possibly also in terms of sign and significance. Standard errors of these estimates will also differ in magnitude depending on whether weights are used. In general, use of survey weights in the model should lead to accurate point estimates. However, the standard errors of these estimates will not tend to be as accurate.

One approach that may help in partially addressing the issue of less accurate standard errors is to first normalize the weights. Normalizing of weights involves multiplying the weight of each person by a constant factor so that they add up to a desired value. For the purposes of survey analysis, it is common to normalize the weights to add up to the sample total. It is suggested that normalized weights be calculated at state level where possible due to the different sampling fractions that are used in each state.

State-level normalized weights can be calculated by multiplying the person weight of an individual within state h by the proportion of people in the state that were in the sample:

$$\tilde{\mathcal{W}}_{i,k} = \mathcal{W}_{i,k} \left(\frac{\mathcal{N}_k}{N_k} \right)$$

where

 $\tilde{w}_{i,k}$ is the normalized weight for unit i in state h

 $w_{i,k}$ is the original person weight for unit i in state h

 $n_{\rm b}$ is the sample total in state h

 $N_{\rm b}$ is the population total in state h

Normalization using SAS, SPSS and Stata

Support for normalized weights in modelling varies for each of the different software packages available in the ABS RADL.

In SAS: When using the LOGISTIC or PHREG procedures, users may specify an option **/NORMALIZE** when using the **weight** statement. This will cause the weights specified by the **weight** statement to add to the total sample size. Note that this option does not necessarily produce normalized weights at state-level.

In SPSS: Minimal support for normalized weights.

In Stata: When producing some models, Stata will rescale the specified weights to add to the total sample size.

Useful references on the use of survey weights in modelling

The following references may assist your decision on whether or not to use survey weights for your particular purpose. They have been selected as an authoritative cross-section of discussion on the issue of using weights in models.

Chambers, R.L. and C.J. Skinner (eds.) (2003), Analysis of Survey Data, Chichester: Wiley.

DuMouchel, W.H. and G.J. Duncan, (1983) "Using Sample Survey Weights in Multiple Regression Analyses

of Stratified Samples", **Journal of the American Statistical Association**, Vol. 78, No. 383. (September), pp. 535-543.

Magee, L., Robb, A.L., and J. B. Burbidge, (1998), "On the use of sampling weights when estimating regression models with survey data", **Journal of Econometrics**, Volume 84, Issue 2 (June), Pages 251-27.1

Pfeffermann, D. (1993), "The Role of Sampling Weights When Modeling Survey Data", **International Statistical Review**, Vol. 61, No. 2. (August), pp. 317-337.

Pfeffermann, D (1996), "The Use of Sampling Weights for Survey Data Analysis", **Statistical Methods in Medical Research**, 5, pp. 239-261.

Skinner, C.J., Holt, D., and T.M.F Smith (1989), Analysis of Complex Surveys, Chichester: Wiley.

Winship, C., and L. Radbill (1994), "Sampling Weights and Regression Analysis." **Sociological Methods and Research** 23(2):230-257.

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can I apply for an ABS CURF if I am not already an approved user? Yes. You can apply for an ABS CURF if you are not already an approved user.

To apply for ABS CURFs your organisation must already have access to the required CURFs or must request access.

To find out how to apply for access to ABS CURFs please visit the Applying for CURF Microdata Pages.

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do I need to apply to access a CURF that my organisation already has?

Even if your organisation already has access to the CURF you want to use, you must have your access approved by the ABS before you may use the CURF. Authorised users of CURFs may not share the CURF with unauthorised users.

To apply for access, please see Applying for CURF Microdata.

Provision of access to CURFs for users who have not received ABS approval is considered a breach, provision of access to unauthorised users is also a breach. Where such breaches have occurred, the ABS applies any of a range of <u>Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking</u>.

To find out whether your organisation already has approved access to the CURF you require, please contact the <u>CURF Contact Officer</u> in your organisation.

This page first published 7 April 2008, last updated 8 March 2011

Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

Subsection 19 (3) of the Census and Statistics Act 1905 provides that a person who fails to comply with an undertaking given by that person in respect of a Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) is guilty of an indictable offence, punishable on conviction by a fine of 120 penalty units (\$13,200) or imprisonment for two years, or both.

Additionally, under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement CURFs are provided for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. Other uses are in breach of that Agreement.

If, at any time, you are unsure about your organisation's compliance with the CURF Undertaking or with the terms and conditions of the ABS/Universities Agreement, please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au.

Related links:

Technical Manual: Responsible Access to CURFs Training manual, Sep 2009 Applying for CURF Microdata

This page last updated 19 January 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Consultants and third party organisations

What is a consultant?

A consultant is a person who is undertaking research for another organisation (known by ABS as the third party organisation). Some consultants are university academic doing a research project for a government agency or other organisation. On other occasions professional consulting firms undertake research for government agencies or other organisations.

What is a third party organisation?

ABS is the first party involved in CURF access and use. An approved CURF user's organisation is the second party organisation. An organisation which has hired a consultant is the third party organisation.

Can consultants use CURFs?

Yes, as long as the consultant and their own organisation (the second party organisation) are approved by the ABS to use the CURF.

The CURF application process for consultants is the same as for any other individual except that the applicant tell the ABS they are doing research for another organisation and what outputs they will share with that organisation. ABS uses this information to ensure all those who need to access CURFs gain ABS approval.

Does the third party organisation need to be approved to use the CURF?

If people in the third party organisation will see or share CURF microdata with the consultant then each of those people, and their organisation, must be approved by ABS to access the CURF. For example, a collaborative project where both the consultant and people in the third party organisation are analysing the microdata would require both parties to be approved to access the CURF.

If people in the third party organisation will not see or share CURF microdata then they do not need to be approved to access the CURF. For example, if the consultant provides aggregated data to the third party or provides a report with conclusions drawn from analysis of the CURF, then ABS does not require the third party organisation to be approved to access the CURF.

See also Applying for CURF Microdata

This page first published 20 September 2007, last updated 31 January 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Who can qualify as a Responsible Officer?

In a government Department, the Responsible Officer must be a Secretary of Department or equivalent head of organisation, as agreed with the ABS. In practice this requires that a release to a Department or Authority must be signed by the Secretary of the Department or in the case of an Authority the equivalent Head of the Authority.

In a private sector organisation, the Responsible Officer must be someone who has the same legal responsibility for the actions of the organisation as a Departmental Secretary does for a Department. This will usually be someone with the status of CEO, Company Secretary or Managing Director.

In a University, the Responsible Officer must be a Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor or University Registrar.

Click to view a list of current CURF Contact Officers

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can an individual apply for an ABS CURF?

Yes. An individual can apply for access to an ABS CURF but must have approval from the Australian Statistician before access is granted. The individual's organisation must also be approved to access CURFs.

To ensure microdata confidentiality is maintained, CURFs are released only to authorised users for approved purposes of statistical analysis and policy research. A declaration of the proposed statistical use of the CURF (and the likely application, outputs and outcomes arising from its use) must be provided in the Undertaking that is signed by each individual seeking access to CURFs. This information is given consideration by the Australian Statistician, who will then make a decision about whether access can be given to the requested CURF.

To apply for access to ABS CURFs please visit the Applying for CURF Microdata Page.

More information about the roles and responsibilities of CURF Individual Users is available in <u>Managing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs): A Step by Step Guide</u>, 2007 (cat. no. 1406.0.55.004).

Frequently Asked Questions - Who can access CURFs? - Can overseas clients apply for an ABS CURF?

The ABS will not generally release CURF data to overseas applicants.

However, the ABS will consider, on a case-by-case basis, overseas applications to access CURFs via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

To be considered, overseas applicants must fulfill two criteria:

- 1. they must generally be affiliated with an Australian university or government department, or their country's National Statistical Office (such as the US Census Bureau, Statistics New Zealand, Statistics Canada etc).
- 2. the study would have to be demonstrably of use to Australia. Some examples of work meeting this criteria might include: producing international comparisons in an area of topical interest; an overseas organisation undertaking policy relevant work on behalf of Australia; methodological work that leads to improved data collection practices and methods in Australia; and research likely to result in Australia reviewing policy.

The ABS cannot guarantee that a CURF application from an overseas applicant will be approved.

Release of CURFs to any organisation, Australian or otherwise, is always at the discretion of the Australian Statistician.

A list of National Statistical Offices can be accessed at http://www.census.gov/main/www/stat int.html

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - What is meant by 'Statistical Purpose' on the application forms?

Access to microdata is granted for specific and approved statistical purposes. Applicants for such access are therefore required to describe their intended use of the microdata, and the outputs and outcomes likely to arise from that use. This is so the Australian Statistician can be assured that microdata are used appropriately.

STATISTICAL PURPOSE

The statistical purpose details the outcomes expected from microdata analysis, and outlines the methods to be used in achieving those outcomes. The description should be sufficient to show that there is a clear objective from the analysis, and that access to the CURF(s) is essential to be able to undertake the analysis. Statements such as 'academic research' or 'policy research', without further detail, are not in themselves adequate descriptions of statistical purpose, and will not be approved by the ABS.

Examples of acceptable statistical purposes include:

- estimation of population characteristics to provide indicators of financial literacy of Australian households toward design of education strategies
- the data will be used as input to mathematical models and other types of analysis in order to study the prevalence and impact of housing-related stressors in the population. The results will be used to develop policy programs targeted at groups experiencing these stressors.
- statistical modelling of predictors and correlates of employment and work performance among those
 with carer responsibilities compared to persons without these responsibilities, to determine the need
 for government programs
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (for example: factor analysis) to enable us to project impacts of potential policy changes in the area of private health insurance
- study the relationship between disability and labour market outcomes to target future employment support programmes
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population in order to demonstrate the impact of information technology on productivity in Australian industry groups

EXPECTED OUTPUT

In order to adequately assess an application for access to microdata, the ABS needs to be aware of the intended outputs. This helps ABS to understand the statistical purpose and determine whether access to the microdata is appropriate given the proposed end use of the analysis. Applications must therefore include broad descriptions of all expected analytical results.

Some examples of acceptable descriptions are:

- aggregated tabular data broken down to capital city/other for reference by policy research and development staff
- statistical models for explaining the frequency of visits by medical practitioners as a function of demographic/geographic factors

Any potential publication or formal discussion of outputs should also be described. Examples of these include:

- honours and doctoral theses
- journal articles (fully cite titles where known)
- conference papers (fully cite name of the conference, and title of the paper where known)
- seminars or symposia (provide details where known)
- reports/papers for Government on policy issues

For further guidance on outputs and outcomes please see What are typical Outcomes and Outputs from CURF use?

ABS reserves the right to seek more information from applicants if it is not able to readily determine whether an application should be approved as supplied.

The ABS actively encourages the sharing of outcomes from the analysis of its microdata throughout the Australian community, and publishes lists of <u>publications produced using CURF data</u>.

Please contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au for further advice on statistical purpose and outputs.

This page first published 27 April 2007, last updated 22 September 2008

What are typical Outcomes and Outputs from CURF use?

A statistical purpose includes statements on the intended outcomes of the proposed microdata analysis, and an indication of the methods to be employed in that analysis. Applicants for access to microdata are also asked to list the expected outputs from their research as this helps the ABS to assess the validity of the application.

The following 'typical' outputs and outcomes are examples only and are not exhaustive. They are provided to guide applicants in completing their applications, but will require more detail to offer satisfactory support for CURF access applications.

'Typical' outputs and outcomes

Client type	Outputs	Outcomes
Government department/agency	 ministerial briefings reports presentations conference papers 	 identified needs for/gaps in policies/programs evaluation of current policies/ programs recommendations for new policies/programs
University	 journal articles reports monographs presentations conference papers 	identified needs for/gaps in academic programs recommendations for/design of new academic programs increased knowledge/ understanding in a field of interest (pure research) contributions to public debate
Consultant	 journal articles reports monographs presentations conference papers 	as defined by the consultancy brief

This page last updated 22 September 2008

Frequently Asked Questions - Applying for CURFs - Do supervisors need to fill in an Individual User Application & Undertaking form?

Yes. If in supervising a research project you will be examining unit record information from the CURF, you are required to apply and have approved a CURF access request.

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Is my University part of the ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement?

Not all Australian universities are party to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement, participating universities are outlined in the ABS/Universities Australia participating universities list.

Universities not party to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement may purchase CURFs at the current ABS list price. See the CURF Prices page for details.

If your University is not currently on the participating list and would like to partake in the agreement please contact Universities Australia at contact@universitiesaustralia.edu.au.

CURF: Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - ABS/SNZ reciprocal CURF access arrangements

A Memorandum of Understanding between the ABS and Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) allows access to ABS Basic and Expanded and SNZ Basic CURFs to researchers in universities participating in the ABS/ Universities Australia Agreement and the SNZ/CONZUL agreement. The SNZ Statistics for universities page provides more information about the New Zealand agreement.

Applying for access

An Australian university researcher seeking access to a New Zealand CURF must complete, submit and have approved a SNZ CURF Researcher Understanding. This Understanding will contain a statement to the effect that Australian researchers wishing to access New Zealand Basic CURFs will be bound by the access requirements of the Statistics Act as enacted in New Zealand (1975). See the SNZ Access to microdata web page for further information about applying for and using SNZ CURFs. New Zealand CURFs are available to Australian users on CD-ROM only.

A New Zealand university researcher seeking access to an Australian CURF should complete the standard ABS CURF application process on the ABS website. See the Applying for CURF Microdata page. Access to Australian CURFs for New Zealand applicants is available in the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) only.

Terms and conditions

Breaching the terms and conditions of CURF access in either Australia or New Zealand may result in the imposition of penalties in both countries. Such penalties may include withdrawal of individual or organisational access to all SNZ and ABS CURFs.

This page first published 24 July 2006, last updated 18 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia Agreement - Can I use CURFs obtained under the Agreement for an externally funded research project?

The ABS/Universities Australia Agreement for 2009-11 includes use for research, teaching and permitted commercial uses. For more information see ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement..

If you are in any doubt as to whether your intended use of a CURF is authorised under the Agreement you must contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call (02) 6252 7714 before putting the CURF to that particular use.

Frequently Asked Questions. ABS/Universities Australia Agreement. Does the Agreement give me access to Luxembourg Income Study?

Yes. Access to the <u>Luxembourg Income Study</u> (LIS) is available as part of the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement.

LIS is a depository for anonymised household survey microdata provided by international agencies. The range of household income data surveys represented in LIS includes ABS Income and Housing Costs microdata. Microdata from all international collections included in LIS have been adjusted to provide income, demographic, labour market and expenditure information on three different levels: household, person and child. Almost all the microdata files in LIS cover multiple reference periods.

Access to LIS for researchers in universities is managed by LIS itself. For more information please consult the LIS via the website link provided above.

This page first published 12 September 2007, last updated 31 March 2009

Frequently Asked Questions - ABS/Universities Australia CURF Agreement - Can I use a CURF obtained under the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement as the basis for applying for an ARC or NHMRC grant?

Yes. As long as your university is a party to the ABS/Universities Australia Agreement and the CURF will be used to support a pure research project funded by the ARC and/or the NHMRC.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Obligations of CURF Users

Access to ABS CURFs includes responsibilities and commitments on the part of the user and their organisation.

- Before applying for CURF access, applicants must read the Technical Manual: Responsible Access to CURFs Training Manual, Sep 2009 and adhere to the obligations it describes regarding use of CURFs. This information is also available in the CURF application system, MiCRO.
- If an individual user leaves their organisation they must inform the ABS 10 working days prior to departure.

For penalties resulting from a breach of obligations in the CURF Application and Undertaking form see - Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking

This page last updated 14 January 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is a CURF released?

CURFs are released at the discretion of the Australian Statistician after an intensive assessment process conducted by the ABS Micro-data Review Panel. CURFs may be released on CD-ROM, via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or through the ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL), depending on the level of detail provided in the file.

Frequently Asked Questions - About CURFs - For what type of research can a CURF be used?

CURFs are used to undertake data manipulations requiring individual unit record data reflecting the diversity within a population. Some typical applications include production of papers, journal articles, books, PhD theses, microsimulation, modelling and conducting detailed analyses.

Data contained in a CURF is also used for producing detailed tabulations requiring data in a disaggregated form.

CURFs are an invaluable source of information for 'high-end' researchers and statisticians investigating a wide range of social or labour related topics. Our web page Published Research Using CURF Microdata provides many examples of what is possible.

Each ABS CURF has associated with it a technical manual or user guide which includes information on its microdata content, technical details and conditions of use.

Use of microdata is subject to a range of restrictions to ensure the confidentiality of survey respondents. See the Responsible Access to ABS CURFs Training Manual for clear instruction on these restrictions.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Can I share statistical output from a CURF?

Tables or other aggregated output (for example, averages, model parameters) released as 'general output' via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or developed as output by users of CD-ROM CURFs may be disclosed or disseminated by the user.

Certain output from RADL may be labelled as 'Keep Secure'. This classification requires that the output be treated as highly confidential at all times. 'Keep Secure' output includes any printouts of unit record information, as well as analytical output that has been designated as 'Keep Secure'.

RADL 'Keep Secure' output cannot be shared between users who do not have access to the source CURF, nor with users in other organisations whether or not they do have access to the CURF. Such output may be used in further analysis, but cannot be published.

All Analytical results labelled as 'Keep Secure', whether they include unit information or not, must be stored in a secure environment. All such printouts should be kept under lock and key, and electronic output must be stored in password protected systems.

RADL 'Keep Secure' printouts must be securely destroyed (ie shredded) when no longer needed, and analytical output (whether or not it includes unit record information) held in an intranet must be deleted. Deletion must happen in such a way that recovery is not possible by unauthorised people.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - Under what conditions is an Organisation provided with access to a CURF?

Access to a CURF is granted to an organisation at the discretion of the Australian Statistician. A precondition of organisational access is that the Australian Statistician has been provided with a legally binding Undertaking setting out the Terms and Conditions under which the access is approved.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - How do I cite the CURFs I have used in my research?

Information or data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics must be acknowledged responsibly whenever it is used. Citing, or referencing, is important for several reasons, including acknowledging that one has used the ideas, words or data of others. Accurately citing sources used also allows others to find and use the original information.

For information on how to cite CURFs please refer to **Guide to Citing ABS Sources**.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a RADL audit and will I be involved?

Audits of jobs submitted to RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose of these audits is to identify confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. These issues may arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are manually inspected by ABS staff. If a confidentiality issue is identified, the user in question will be notified by email. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS audit directions in respect to their code and output.

Further information on restrictions and rules for RADL use can be found in the <u>Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) User Guide (Cat no. 1406.0.55.002)</u>.

It is also a requirement in the Individual User Undertaking (IUU1) that individual users comply with direction or requirement specified in the <u>ABS Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files</u> (CURFs) Training Manual

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is a Compliance Audit?

CURF microdata Users should be aware that their organisation's Responsible Officer has signed an <u>Undertaking</u> specifying that ABS officers or their nominated representatives are allowed access to all necessary documents and information for the purposes of conducting a compliance audit concerning the observance of the terms and conditions under which information is disclosed by ABS.

This audit is undertaken periodically by the ABS with a number of organisations audited on each occasion. The auditors will visit to discuss the organisation's internal arrangements for managing access to CURFs. As part of the visit the auditor will speak with CURF users about their understanding of the ABS conditions for CURF usage. The visit is also an opportunity for users to provide feedback to the ABS and to make suggestions for improvements to CURF data or associated procedures.

The audit does not generally involve checking data files or an organisation's IT systems.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, responsibilities and liability - Can I share CURFs with other people?

No. Access to CURFs can only be granted by the ABS and is granted on an individual basis only.

Unapproved individuals must not be given access to microdata as this is a serious breach of the CURF Undertaking signed by your organisation.

Any person who needs access to CURF microdata or to non-aggregated output produced from the CURF must apply and be approved by ABS before accessing the data. This includes members of your research project team who will see or use CURF microdata or non-aggregated output from the CURF.

Sanctions outlined in the Penalties for Breaching the CURF Undertaking will be brought against organisations and individuals found to be sharing access to CURFs and/or unit record output with unapproved people.

This page first published 21 April 2008, last updated 28 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What is the ABS liability position regarding CURF microdata?

Except to the extent that liability may not be lawfully excluded, the ABS:

a) makes no warranty as to the suitability or fitness of the CURF for a particular purpose, or quality, accuracy or merchantability of the CURF;

and

b) accepts no liability arising from the use of the CURF.

Frequently Asked Questions - Obligations, Liabilities and Penalties - What are the limited licence provisions to use a CURF and what copyright information do I need to know?

Intellectual Property Rights in CURFs, including copyright in the CURF, are owned by the Commonwealth of Australia represented by the ABS. Copyright notices appearing on the CURF or on information displayed or printed by the CURF must not be removed.

An organisation using CURFs is granted a non exclusive, non transferable license by the ABS that allows Authorised Users to use the CURF for statistical purposes in accordance with the Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer of the organisation.

Publication of data and analysis of the CURF must cite the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the source of the data and include a prominently displayed notice that the results or views expressed are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the ABS. More information about citing CURFs in published output is available on the Do I have to cite the CURFs I have used in my research? section of the Frequently Asked Questions about CURFs page.

Frequently Asked Questions - Annual Renewal of CURFs - Why do I need to renew access to CURFs?

Yes, and no! Users of Expanded CURFs must renew their access annually with the ABS. The CURF Undertaking signed by the Responsible Officer on behalf of their organisation must also be renewed annually. But from 2011 ABS has removed the requirement for annual renewal of Basic CURFs.

For information about annual renewal please see the Annual Renewal of CURF access web page.

Annual Renewal of CURF Access

Each year ABS requires organisations to renew their access to Expanded CURFs. ABS also requires annual renewal of the Responsible Officer Undertaking from each organisation. Basic CURFs do not need annual renewal.

Both the renewal of CURFs and the renewal of the Responsible Officer Undertaking is a condition of CURF use that has been agreed by each organisation's Responsible Officer. These and the other conditions of use of CURFs are shown in the Undertaking itself.

Failure to complete annual renewal may result in the withdrawal of access to CURFs for individuals users and/or the organisation.

The annual renewal process is coordinated by each organisation's CURF Contact Officer. Individual users will be asked by the Contact Officer to confirm that they still require use of CURFs and if so, whether the statistical purpose for use of the CURF has changed.

Annual renewal time is a good opportunity for CURF users to provide ABS with citations for their published research that has included use of CURFs. This helps ABS understand the range of research activities undertaken using CURFs. ABS publishes these citations on its Published Research Using CURF Microdata web pages so that others can share the benefits of the research.

Related information

Responsible Officer Undertaking Guide to citing ABS sources CURF Contacts

This page last updated 28 February 2011

Frequently Asked Questions - Tips for using CURFs - How do I use Replicate Weights in STATA?

It is not appropriate to use the bootstrap commands in RADL. To use bootstrap commands appropriately a user needs to be able to identify the primary selection units (PSU). In the case of ABS CURFs, all respondents in the same CD (Collectors District) belong to the same PSU. However, grouping respondents into PSUs significantly increases the risk of a respondent being identified so the ABS cannot release this information. To enable researchers to produce accurate variance estimates, the ABS releases the replicate weights which take the sample design into consideration, as well as any other steps in the estimation process such as non-response adjustments.

For STATA users, the ABS has made available the user-supplied *svr* suite of commands to assist users in calculating standard errors using replicate weights. Users must first use *svrset* to set the key survey replication variables for use by the other *svr* commands.

The following parameters should be specified:

- Replication method is the delete-one jackknife: svrset set meth jk1
- Main analysis weight is usually be the person weight: for example svrset set pw FINWT (or equivalent)
- Variables denoting the replicate weights need to be specified: for example *svrset set rw REPWT1-REPWT30* (or equivalent)
- Degrees of freedom for variance calculation are one less than the number of replicate weights: for example syrset set dof 59 (or equivalentt)

A useful summary of replicate weights is available in the STATA help documentation: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/Library/replicate_weights.htm

This page first published 27 November 2009, last updated 30 November 2009

CURF Contacts

Your Organisation

Each organisation approved to use ABS CURFs appoints a Contact Officer to ensure appropriate management and use of the CURF Microdata, and to liaise with the ABS on all related matters. Contact Officers are a valuable first point of call for CURF applicants and users. They are listed on the <u>CURF Contact Officers</u> page.

ABS

Alternatively, please contact ABS Microdata Access Strategies Section:

Email:	microdata.access@abs.gov.au
Phone:	02 6252 7714
Fax:	02 6252 8132
	Microdata Access Strategies Section Australian Bureau of Statistics Locked Bag 10 Belconnen ACT 2617

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CURF Contact Officers

Each organisation approved to use CURFs has appointed a CURF Contact Officer to administer CURF access on behalf of its members.

Organisation	Organisation's CURF Contact Officer
ACT Health	Ms Linda Halliday
Access Economics	Mr Andy Weiss
Anglicare SA	Mr Sageran Naidoo
Australian Catholic University	Ms Pauline Collins
Australian Institute of Criminology	Mr Brent Davis
Australian Institute of Family Studies	Mr Ross Millward
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	Ms Ilona Brockway
Australian National University	Ms Sharron Turner
BASE IMR Pty Ltd	Mr Peter Walsh
Bohun Group	Mr Oliver Bohun
Bond University	Mr Michael Wallace
Boston Consulting Group	Mr Phil Hirschhorn
CQ University Australia	Mr Graham Black
Charles Darwin University	Ms Fiona Steele
Charles Sturt University	Mrs Gail Fuller
Commonwealth Grants Commission	Mr Jiten Mangal
Curtin University of Technology	Ms Jo Clements
David Chant Statistical Consultant	Mr David Chant
Deakin University	Ms Karly Stafford
Deloitte	Mrs Helen Neville
Dept of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Ms Thea Moyes
Dept of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Mr Anthony Davies
Dept of Health and Ageing	Ms Michelle Ducat
Dept of Immigration and Citizenship	Mr David Smith
Dept of Infrastructure Transport Regional Development and Local	Ms Leanne Johnson
Government	
Dept of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research	Dr Jon Kendall
Dept of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Ms Joanne Hillermann
Dept of Sustainability Environment Water Population and Communities	Ms Pat Head
Dept of Treasury and Finance Tasmania	Ms Alison Watt
Disability Services Queensland	Mr Greg Waite
Edith Cowan University	Ms Agnes Noronha
Fair Work Australia	Ms Miranda Pointon
Flinders University	Mr Pawel Skuza
Geoscience Australia	Ms Shelby Canterford
Griffith University	Ms Debby MacDonald
Housing Industry Association	Ms Kirsten Lewis
Human Services Training Advisory Council - NT	Ms Barbara Pitman
Insurance Council of Australia	Mr Alexander Sanchez
James Cook University	Associate Prof Robin Woellner
Katrine Baghurst	Ms Katrine Baghurst
KPMG	Mr Mark Galvin
Kelly Research	Dr Simon Kelly
L.E.K. Consulting	Miss Julie Jang
La Trobe University	Ms Errill Kongas
Land Development Agency	Mr Paul Cain
MDS Market Data Systems Pty Ltd	Mr Otto Hellwig
Macquarie University	Mr Phanh Oudomlith

Mercurial Insights Pty Ltd	Dr Alex Huisman
Monash University	Dr Simon Barrett
Municipal Association of Victoria	Ms Christine Jones
Murdoch University	Dr Paul Flatau
National Cancer Control Initiative	Ms Jane Fletcher
	Miss Giesel Manalo
National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling (NATSEM)	
National Institute of Economic and Industry Research	Ms Jane Cunningham
NCVER	Ms Tracy Gamlin
New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research	Dr Donald Weatherburn
New South Wales Dept of Ageing, Disability and Home Care	Dr Qingsheng Zhou
New South Wales Dept of Education and Training	Mr David Michaels
New South Wales Dept of Health	Ms Corinne Stolzenhein
New South Wales Dept of Housing	Miss Jaclyn Newman
New South Wales Dept of Planning	Ms Angelique Parr
Office of the Public Advocate	Ms Kathleen Rouseaux
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Ms Sarah Johnson
Productivity Commission	Ms Sandra Waters
Queensland Dept of Education and Training	Mr Peter Hagan
Queensland Health	Mrs Sue MacLeod
Queensland Treasury	Mr James Hurley
Queensland University of Technology	Ms Stephanie Bradbury
RDA Research	Mr Jeffrey Lau
RMIT University	Ms Sophie James
Reserve Bank of Australia	Mr Richard Finlay
SA Health	Mr Graeme Tucker
Safe Work Australia	Ms Thea Moyes
South Australian Dept for Families and Communities	Ms Nancy Rogers
South Australian Dept of Trade and Economic Development	Mr Michael McKay
South Australian Centre for Economic Studies	Mr Jim Hancock
Southern Cross University	Ms Robyn Anderson
Spectrum Analysis	Mr Anubhav Tewari
Swinburne University of Technology	Ms Kaye Goldenberg
Tasmanian Dept of Health and Human Services	Mr Michael Long
Tasmanian Dept of Premier and Cabinet	Ms Terese Smith
Tourism Research Australia	Miss Kathryn Gillies
Treasury	Ms Lee-Anne Sim
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre Incorporated	Dr Annemarie Laslett
University of Adelaide	Ms Kate Melrose
University of Auckland	Mrs Gillian Ralph
University of Ballarat	Mrs Diane Clingin
University of Canberra	Miss Giesel Manalo
University of Canterbury	Ms Heather Jenks
University of Melbourne	Ms Penny Braybrook
University of New England	Prof Neil Argent
University of New South Wales	Mr Andrew Wells
	Ms Bronwen Thomas
University of Newcastle University of Queensland	Mrs Karen Borchardt
University of South Australia	Ms Sally Carpenter
University of Sydney	Mrs Philippa Crosbie
University of Tasmania	Ms Danielle Ryrie
University of Technology, Sydney	Ms Ann Flynn
University of Western Australia	Mr William Hamilton
University of Western Sydney	Ms Tanya Hobson

University of Wollongong	Mr Noel Broadhead
Victoria University	Ms Margarita Kumnick
Victorian Dept of Education and Early Childhood Development	Ms Colleen Howell
Victorian Dept of Health	Dr Connie Spinoso
Victorian Dept of Planning and Community Development	Ms Christabel McCarthy
Victorian Dept of Premier and Cabinet	Mr Chris George
Victorian Dept of Treasury and Finance	Mr Chris George
WA Dept for Communities	Mr Michael Bosley-Smith
WA Dept of Education Services	Mr David Lloyd
WA Dept of Health	Ms Stephania Tomlin

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